

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for transmitting multi-media messages in a mobile radio system, the method comprising:

transmitting a multi-media message from a terminal of a first user agent to a first message service provider having different network elements; and

evaluating the sent multi-media message, after arrival at the first message service provider, by a switching node at the first message service provider;

wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, the network element supporting functionalities associated with the multi-media message within an area of responsibility of the first message service provider to which the multi-media message will be forwarded.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 21, the method further comprising:

transmitting the multi-media message from the first message service provider to a second message service provider; and

evaluating the multi-media message at the second message service provider;

wherein the multi-media message contains at least a first header field featuring a reference to at least one of the network elements of the first message service provider which was involved in processing the multi-media message.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 22, the method further comprising transmitting the multi-media message from the second message service provider to a network element outside a service environment,

wherein the multi-media message contains at least a second header field featuring a reference to at least one network element of the second message service provider which was involved in processing the multi-media message.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the multi-media message, upon transmission from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment, contains the first header field featuring a reference to at least one of the network elements of the first message service provider which was involved in processing the multi-media message.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 24, the method further comprising transmitting the multi-media message from the network element outside the service environment back via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with at least one of the referenced set from the first header field and the reference set from the second header field being resolved in each return transmission step.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the reference specifies a return path.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 21, wherein a functionality of the message is evident from at least one header field.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the switching node is integrated into a relay.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A system for transmitting multi-media messages in a mobile radio system, comprising:

- a first message service provider having different network elements;
- a terminal of a first user agent which sends a multi-media message to the first message service provider; and
- a switching node at the first message service provider for evaluating the sent message after arrival at the first message service provider, wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, the network element supporting functionalities associated with the multi-media message within an area of responsibility of the first message service provider to which the multi-media message will be forwarded.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 30, further comprising:

- a second message service provider;
- parts for transmitting the multi-media message from the first message service provider to the second message service provider; and
- parts for evaluating the multi-media message at the second message service provider, wherein the multi-media message contains at least a first header field featuring a reference to at least one of the network elements of the first message service provider supporting functionalities associated with the multi-media message which was involved in processing the multi-media message.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 31, further comprising parts for transmitting the multi-media message from the second message service provider to a network element outside a service environment, wherein the multi-media message contains at least a second header field featuring a reference to at least one of the network elements of the second message service provider which was involved in processing the multi-media message.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the multi-media message, upon completion from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment, contains the first header field featuring a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in processing the multi-media message.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 33, further comprising parts for transmitting the multi-media message from the network element outside the service environment back via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with at least one of the reference set from the first header field and the reference set from the second header field being resolved in each return transmission step.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the reference specifies a return path.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 30, wherein a functionality of the multi-media message is evident from at least one header field.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media messages as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A system for transmitting multi-media message as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the switching node is integrated into a relay.